



NIH Environmental Management System

Take Action to Protect the Future



NEMS NEWS

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For more information:

www.nems.nih.gov

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“THE GREEN SPOTLIGHT”

*Each month we will spotlight an employee or
topic of interest at the NIH.*

Our spotlight is shining this month on the NIH Library and their greening efforts.

The NIH Library has strived to become an environmental steward. Libraries are heavy consumers of paper, toner, and energy and the NIH Library wants to change that image. The Library's Green Team was formed in early 2009 and its major goal was to become zero-waste by 2010. Using the individual blue bins for paper and commingle, all library offices and shared areas use them and visitors use the public recycle containers. Last year waste products were reduced by 80% and today recycling is almost 100%. In the past, the housekeeper would empty 160 trash cans a day. Today there is only one trash container daily.

The NIH Library plays a vital role in the NIH's mission to greening by providing a myriad of medical and scientific information resources and specialized services to the NIH community. The library offers 99% of its 9,800 scholarly journals online. Requests for information are delivered electronically, and scanners are replacing most printers to deliver information.

On Earth Day, April 2009, the library renovated its reading room to an Information Commons with a Green Terrace to bring improved services, state-of-the art technology and an awareness of the environment to its patrons. The Green Terrace, a vegetative roof, is an extension of the library, a pretty and usable space offering a relief, a place to read, meet, and rejuvenate. While there you can also learn about green roofs, its plantings, storm-water-run-off benefits, water recycling, capture and use of solar energy and how these systems fully sustain the Green Terrace. Monitoring systems are installed to track temperature, rainfall, and solar energy use.



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NIH Library Green Team Initiatives are:

The Green Team has made an impact on these areas. **Save Electricity:** Lighting is a major component for libraries. In the public areas, separate light switches were installed to turn off large bank of lights, bulbs were changed from 32w to 25w and bulbs close to the windows now dim when the sun comes in a brighten on cloudy days. Every office has a light sensor, and many bulbs in the offices and hallways are turned off. Monitors, task lights and accessories are turned off. Energy-star rated equipment with sleep mode is standard and slowly older models of equipment are being discontinued. **Less Paper:** Paper is used 57% less than 5 years ago. Soon scanners will be the primary mechanism for staff and patrons instead of printing and copying. USB keys are offered to save on paper. **Save Water:** faucets, toilets and urinals are set to save. **Green Purchasing:** vendors are used that provide recyclable products and ship with recycled materials. We order 100% recyclable paper. **Less Incoming Printed Materials:** The Green Team wrote letters to stop delivery of catalogs/books/pamphlets that are not needed. When NIH newsletters are available, a few printed copies are placed in a shared area, and an e-mail goes out to the library staff citing the URL so they can read it immediately.



Upcoming Events and Meetings

Green Team Leads Council Meeting

Wednesday July 21st 1:00-3:00

Bldg 31/6C Room 7

Sustainable Labs Working Group

Wednesday July 28th 1:30-2:30

TBD

